Wheat stocks

†1227. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of wheat in FCI godowns, as on 1st February, 2006;

(b) the quantity of wheat issued by Government per month for distribution/sale;

(c) whether hurried import of wheat has become essential keeping in view the stock level of wheat in the godowns of FCI; and

(d) the prices at which the import of wheat would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of Wheat in Central Pool as on 1st, February 2006 was as follows:—

(in lakh tonnes)

With FCI	With State Agencies	Total
34.73	14.01	48.74

(b) The month-wise off take of wheat for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other schemes from April, 2005 to January, 06 is given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) and (d) The reasons and rational behind importing the wheat, *Interalia*, are reduced availability of wheat stocks in the Central Pool vis-à-vis the buffer norms, high ruling market prices, lower procurement levels during Rabi marketing Season 2005-06 and to augment the buffer stocks. The Government has decided to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation (STC) for which the later floated a tender which has been opened on 20th February, 2006. The price for import of wheat have not yet been finalized.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Offtake of wheat from April 2005 to January 2006 under targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other schemes

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Month	Offtake of Wheat
April. 2005	13.97
May, 2005	13.65
June, 2005	19.57
July, 2005	15.35
August, 2005	13.05
September, 2005	13.49
October, 2005	11.90
November, 2005	12.03
December, 2005	13.75
January, 2006	13.04

Task force for conservation of wildlife

1228. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a task force to study the conservation of tigers and wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force is also given a mandate to recommend strengthening of laws against poaching and training for police and forest guards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Based on the